THE BIOGRAPHY OF HAZRAT UZAIR (AS)

Islamic Biographies - Volume 4

Written by Mansoor Ali Shah

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the copyright holder.

Chapter 1: The Devout Sage of Bani Israel

A Man of Piety and Wisdom:

Hazrat Uzair bin Surkha was renowned among Bani Israel for his righteousness, wisdom, and piety. His life was a testament to devotion and divine knowledge. One day, while inspecting his farmland, he was overcome by the intense heat of midday. Seeking relief, he entered a deserted ruin. Riding his donkey, he dismounted and unloaded two baskets—one filled with figs, the other with grapes.

In the Shadow of Ruin: A Reflection on Death

Seated under the shade of the ruin, Hazrat Uzair (AS) drew out a vessel, poured grape juice into it, and placed dry bread to soak, softening it for his meal. Reclining, he placed his feet against a crumbling wall, his gaze scanning the desolate remains of once-thriving homes. The roofs had collapsed, walls were buried under rubble, and the inhabitants had long perished, leaving only decaying bones.

Hazrat Uzair (AS):

"How will Allah bring this to life after its death?"

His remark, an expression of wonder, was interpreted by Allah as a sign of doubt. Immediately, Hazrat Azrael (AS) was sent to seize his soul.

Divine Suspension: A Hundred Years in Death

As stated in the Qur'an (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:259):

"Or [consider such an example] as the one who passed by a township which had fallen into ruin. He said, 'How will Allah bring this to life after its death?' So Allah caused him to die for a hundred years; then He revived him. He said, 'How long have you remained?' The man said, 'I have remained a day or part of a day.' He said, 'Rather, you have remained one hundred years. Look at your food and your drink; it has not changed with time. And look at your donkey; and We will make you a sign for the people. And look at the bones [of this donkey] - how We raise them and then We cover them with flesh.' And when it became clear to him, he said, 'I know that Allah is over all things competent.'"

During this century, Bani Israel experienced great upheavals and revivals. At the end of this period, Allah dispatched Hazrat Azrael (AS) to restore Hazrat Uzair's (AS) soul. He sat upright, and Hazrat Azrael (AS) asked:

Hazrat Azrael (AS):

"How long have you remained?"

Hazrat Uzair (AS):

"I have remained a day or part of a day."

He had passed at the time of midday and was resurrected before sunset.

Hazrat Uzair (AS):

"Or a little less than a day."

Hazrat Azrael (AS):

"Rather, you have remained one hundred years."

A Miracle Unveiled: Signs for Mankind

To his amazement, the soaked bread and grape juice had remained unspoiled, perfectly preserved. The figs and grapes were still fresh. Hazrat Azrael (AS) then directed him:

Hazrat Azrael (AS):

"Look at your food and your drink; it has not changed with time. And look at your donkey."

Hazrat Uzair (AS) turned and saw only decayed bones. Before his eyes, Hazrat Azrael (AS) reassembled the bones piece by piece, reconnecting sinews and muscles, until flesh and skin formed. The donkey stood up in its original form, braying with its head raised toward the heavens.

As stated in the Qur'an (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:259):

"And look at your donkey; and We will make you a sign for the people. And look at the bones [of this donkey] - how We raise them and then We cover them with flesh. And when it became clear to him, he said, 'I know that Allah is over all things competent.”

Certainty and Revival:

Seeing the miraculous resurrection, Hazrat Uzair (AS) declared:

Hazrat Uzair (AS):

"I now know that Allah is powerful over all things."

A Living Sign Among Men:

According to Hazrat Abdullah ibn Abbas (RA), Hazrat Uzair (AS) truly became a sign for his people.

As stated in the Qur'an (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:259):

Allah (SWT):

"And We will make you a sign for the people."

The Return: Time Stands Still

Imam Abu Hatim Bahistani narrated that Hazrat Uzair (AS) was forty years old at the time of his death. When he was resurrected a century later, he appeared unchanged, still in the prime of youth. Meanwhile, his descendants had aged considerably—his grandsons now ninety years old, with white beards and hair.

POEM

"The head of a man turned black before his son’s;
His grandson aged before him, bent with a staff,
While the grandfather’s beard remained dark, his hair red."

"His father's age is forty, unchanged;
His grandson walks with ninety years upon his shoulders.

What reason explains this, if you know?
If not, then what an ignorance to excuse!"